

Hispanic Scholarship Fund; won the Spirit of Education Award by the American Diabetes Association; and earned the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Mr. Raul Vargas currently ranks among the top leaders in higher education. Above all, he exemplifies the excellence in American leadership today.

TRIBUTE TO KIP LOMBARD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to one of Oregon's finest citizens and most dedicated public servants, the late Benjamin "Kip" Lombard, Jr. It is with great sadness that I report that Kip passed away last year at the age of sixty-two, though he lives on in the memories of the many people he touched during his life and the grateful citizens on whose behalf he worked so tirelessly.

Mr. Speaker, Kip Lombard was a true son of the State of Oregon, and his love for his native state was evident in the many labors he performed for the betterment of his fellow Oregonians. Kip was blessed with both a keen intellect and the motivation to use his intellectual gifts in the service of others. He graduated with honors as a member of the first class of the University of Oregon Honors College, an institution reserved for only the most academically gifted. Knowing firsthand the value of a good education, Kip was a steadfast advocate for promoting academic excellence in Oregon. He served on the Jackson County Education Service District, Southern Oregon University's Regional Advisory Board, and as a volunteer on the Board of Directors of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Association.

Mr. Speaker, while Kip's contributions to his community and state were diverse, he made perhaps his greatest mark in his role as State Representative. Kip served faithfully in the Oregon State Legislature from 1977 to 1985, where he quickly gained a reputation for his effectiveness, conviction, personal integrity and abiding respect for others. When the big jobs had to be done, Kip was always there, working relentlessly and forsaking the limelight. He was fiercely loyal to his southern Oregon constituents, yet committed to making Oregon the greatest state in the Union. He was, in short, a true gentleman and statesman in the finest tradition of Oregon's greatest public leaders.

Kip was widely respected for his thorough knowledge of Western water issues, both during his service in the legislature and in his law practice. As an attorney in private practice Kip brought the same high standards to his profession that he brought to the State House, and his clients were well served by him.

Mr. Speaker, although Kip's life was distinguished by many impressive accomplishments and the recognition that attended his achievements, I know that as a humble man his greatest source of pride was attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Many of Kip's finest qualities were learned and nurtured in the Scouts, and he maintained a close relationship to Scouting throughout his life.

Kip Lombard's passing subtracts from the number of truly good men in this world, but it will be impossible for us ever to forget that Kip left this world a better place than he found it. Kip will always remain an inspiration to me, and his life's work will always represent the ideal of using one's God-given abilities on behalf of others.

Mr. Speaker, Kip was a man of many distinguished titles, but he valued none of them more highly than the titles of husband and father. I know the solemn pride that his wife, Bernadette, his children, Christopher and Ian, and his grandson, Samuel Benjamin, must certainly feel. While he has left their side in this world, I hope they find consolation in the knowledge that his was a life extremely well lived. For my part, I am grateful to have called Kip Lombard my friend and to have been associated with a man whose tireless work will benefit the State of Oregon for generations.

TAIWAN'S UPCOMING REFERENDUM

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, the referendum offered by Taiwan's President, the Honorable Chen Shui-bian, for the March 20, 2004 election ballot will not alter the status quo of cross-strait relations.

This referendum does not seek a declaration of independence. Rather, it is intended to express the Taiwanese people's immediate and legitimate concerns regarding the peace and security of the region. Taiwan is a thriving democracy that promotes freedom and the rule of law. The upcoming referendum will allow its people to freely express their views, which is a fundamental human right guaranteed by international law.

HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the rich history of African Americans as we celebrate African American History Month.

Throughout our Nation's history, African Americans have made vast contributions to all aspects of American society—music, literature, sports, education, science, business, and politics. This month and throughout the year we honor these contributions and the wonderful African American men and women whose stellar achievements have left a positive imprint on our society.

We remember in a very special way this month the thousands of African Americans serving in the United States Armed Forces. From the Revolutionary War to the war in Iraq, African Americans have served our Nation in high numbers and with great distinction and honor. We honor this proud history and all African Americans currently defending our Nation and its freedoms.

I encourage those living in my district in Los Angeles County, California, and around the

country to take time this month to learn more about vast cultural and historical contributions made by African Americans to our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO LENN HANNON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to a fine American, a true gentleman and a good friend of mine, Lenn Hannon, on the occasion of his retirement from the Oregon State Senate. It is a pleasure to honor Lenn and his lovely wife, Dixie, who have stood together in public life for more than 30 years and together have made invaluable contributions to the State of Oregon and its people.

Mr. Speaker, Lenn Hannon traces his interest in public service to 1960 when, as a high school junior and member of the school band, Lenn had an opportunity to shake hands with a young Senator campaigning for President named John F. Kennedy. Inspired by Kennedy's call to public service, Lenn would go on to live his life by Kennedy's famous admonition: "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

Lenn began his career in public service in 1974, when he won a seat in the State Senate by a mere 37 votes. During his first years in the Senate, Hannon developed a reputation as a smart, open-minded and fair lawmaker whose concern for the people he represented was far greater than his concern for himself. In 1980, Lenn switched parties to become one of only seven Republicans in the State Senate. Over the years he gradually built up seniority to become the Senate's senior Republican and Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee. During this time, he devoted himself to a wide range of issues, from strengthening education and arts programs to combating substance abuse and managing federal land issues. One of his greatest accomplishments in the State Legislature was his success in helping to develop Southern Oregon University into a premiere educational institution for southern Oregon. The reverence his name inspires among SOU faculty, staff and alumni is a testament to his enduring contributions to the university.

Mr. Speaker, now that Lenn's service in the State Senate has come to an end, Lenn will serve on the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision, a role that will allow him to continue serving the citizens of Oregon. He and Dixie will move to Salem for the new job, but their hearts will always remain in the community where they are so well loved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these extraordinary Americans, Lenn and Dixie Hannon. I would like to thank them both personally for all they have done for the people of southern Oregon, the Second District, and the State of Oregon. I wish Lenn and Dixie and their entire family all the best in future endeavors.